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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY China

DATE:

INFO.

SUBJECT Political Information: Soviets' Plan for Circumvention of Chinese Order Closing Soviet Arbitration Board in Shanghai.

DIST. 23 April 1947

PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

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1. After the discussion between Soviet Consul-General Halin and the Director of the Shanghai Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the abolition of the 'Arbitration Board' of the Shanghai Soviet Residents' Association, N. Zefirov was urged to call an 'Extraordinary Meeting' of the Presidium of the Association to discuss the new situation.
2. At this meeting which was held on 21 March, Halin stated that the activities of the Arbitration Board as such must be stopped. In the future if some disputes between Shanghai Soviet citizens have to be solved by arbitrary decision, then these disputes must be solved by meetings in private homes and each time by a different body. These arbitration meetings must be restricted to cases which involve only moral or political differences and not those involving material compensation such as fines, thefts, and the like.
- note: The North China Daily News, Shanghai, on 19 March issued the following article based on a Central News release:

(2.)

"Mr. F.P. Halin, Soviet Consul-General in Shanghai called on Dr. Chen Kuo-lien, Director of the Shanghai Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Monday (17 March) and it was reported that he sought a guarantee for the safety of the Soviet Consulate here in view of the mounting tide of public sentiments which are regarded by the Soviets to be anti-Soviet in nature. Central News learned.

Director Chen assured the Soviet Consul-General that the competent authorities who are responsible for maintaining local peace and order would be requested to pay particular attention to the subject which the Soviet Consul-General had raised. Dr. Chen, however, pointed out that any spontaneous movement by the people as a medium for the expression of their patriotic feelings could not be thwarted so long as such movements are conducted within lawful bounds.

The Soviet Residents' Association's arbitration board will cease to exist as a result of a meeting held on Monday (17 March) by Mr. F.P. Malin, Soviet Consul-General in Shanghai, and Mr. Chen Kuo-lien, Director of the Shanghai Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Chen is said to have told Mr. Halin that there was no legal basis whatever for the continued existence of this board and asked him to see to it that the board comply with the order when it would be issued.

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At the same time, it was learned, Mr. Chen has approached the Shanghai Municipal Government with a request to issue such an order."

- (b.) According to the Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury, "Mr. Chen said that the basis for upholding the board dates back to a Russian agreement concluded with the Peking government on 8 August 1921 which the present Central Government cannot recognize. In view of this, Halin has agreed to the abolition of the board which, for the past four months, had dealt with more than fifty private disputes among Soviet citizens.")

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